

JACKE OF
DOVER;
HIS

Quest of Inquirie, or

his priuy search for the veriest
Foole in England.



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Iacke of Douers

quest of Inquirie.



Hen merry *Iacke of Douer* had made his priue search, for the Foole of all Fooles; and making his Inquirie in most of the principall places in England, at his returne home, was adjudged to be the Foole himselfe: but now wearied with the motley Coxcombe, he hath vndertaken in some place or other, to finde out a verrier Foole then himselfe: But first of all comming to *London*, he went into *Paules Church*; where, walking very melancholy in the middle Ile with captain *Thin-gut* and his fellowes, he was invited to dine at Duke *Humphries* Ordinarie: Where, amongst many other good stomackes that repayred to his bountifull Feast, there came in a whole lury of penniless *Poets*: who, being fellowes of a merry disposition, (but as necessary in a Common-wealth as a Candle in a Straw-bed) hee accepted of their company; and as from *Poets* commeth all kind of foolerie, so he hoped by their good directions, to finde out this Foole of all Fooles so long lookt for: So thinking to passe away the dinner time with some pleasant chat, least (being

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ouercloyde with too many delicates) they should sur-
fet, he discouered to them his merry meaning, who
being glad of so good an occasion of mirth, in stead of
a cup of Sacke and Sugar for disiestion, these men of
litle wit, began to make inquirie and to search for this
aforesayd Foole, thinking it a deed of charitie, to ease
him of so great a burthen as his Motley Coxcombe
was: and because such weake braines as are now resi-
dent almost in euery place, might take benefite here-
at, in this manner began the inquirie.

The Foole of Herforde.

VPon a time (quoth one of the Iurie) it was my
chaunce to be in the Cittie of *Herforde*, where
lodging in an Inne, I was tolde of a certaine silly
witted Gentleman there dwelling, that wold assured-
ly belecue all things that he heard for a truth, to whose
house I went vpon a sleeueles arrands and finding oc-
casion to be acquainted with him, I was well enter-
tained, and for three dayes space had my bed & boord
in his house: where amongst many other fooleries; I
being a traveller, made him belecue that the Steeple in
Burndwood in *Essex*, layled in one night as far as *Callis*
in *Fraunce*, and afterwaie returned againe to his pro-
per place. Another time I made him belecue that in
the Forrest of *Sherwood* in *Nottinghamshire*, were
seene 500. of the king of *Spaines* Gallies, which went
to besiedge *Robbin-hoodes* Well, and that fourty thou-
sand

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And Schollers with Elderge squirts performed such a peece of seruice, as they were all in a manner broken and ouerthrowne in the Forrest. Another time I made him beleue that *westminster* hall for suspicion of treason, was banished for ten yeeres into *Staffordshire*. And last of all, I made him beleue that a *Tinker* should be bayted to death at *Caunterbury*, for getting two and twenty children in a yeere: wherevpon to prooue me a lver, he tooke his horse & rode thithers; and I to verifie him a Foole, tooke my horse and rode hithcer. Well quoth *Iacke of Doner*, this in my minde was pretty foolerie: but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Huntington.

And it was my chaunce (quoth another of the Iurie) vpon a time to be at *Huntington*, where I heard tell of a simple *Shoomaker* there dwelling, who hauing two litle Boyes, whom he made a vaunt to bring vp to learning, the better to maintaine themselves when they were men: and hauing kept them a yeere or two at Schoole, he examined them, saying: My good Boy (quoth he to one of them) what doest thou learne? and where is thy lesson? Oh Father, said the Boy, I am past grace. And where art thou quoth he to the other Boy? who likewise answered, that he was at the Diuell and all his workes: Now Lord blesse vs quoth the *Shoomaker*, whither are my Children learning?

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ing the one already is past Grace, and the other at the Diuell and all his workes: Wherevpon he tooke them both from Schoole, and set them to his owne occupation. Well, quoth *Iacke of Douer*, this in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Bedford.

NOt many yeeres ago (sayd another of the Iurie) it was my chaunce to be at *Bedford*, where in the time of my continuance there, the Wives of that same place stroue to exceed one another in braue apparrell, and shee deemed her selfe the best woman that could set her garmentes made of the most finest & strangest fashion: but amongst the rest, there was a certaine Drapers wife, that although she could not put all other women downe in her vpper garments, she meant to exceed them in her lower: and therefore when other women had their Stockings of V Vosted, Iersie, silke, and such like, she got her selfe a paire made of the finest Satten, the which shee continually put on when she went abroad with her neighbours, and who but shee (for the same) was talkt of almost in euery Company. Thus for a long time bore she the bel away, and for that fashion exceeded all the rest of her neighbours wiuers: But now marke what happened in the end, her husbande being a iolly lustie olde man, on a time looking ouer the Subsidy booke, found himselfe therein

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therein five pound more then he was before : where-
vpon he presently went to Maister Mayor of *Bedford*
to get some abatement : who hearing of his wives
fantasticke humour, and knowing how he kept her
in brauery beyond other women, would not grant
him any, saying : Oh sir (quoth Maister Mayor) is it
not great reason, that sith your wife exceeds al other
women in brauery, that you likewise exceede all o-
ther men in the *Queenes* bookes? for shee a Gods
name must be in her Satten Stockings, neither Wooll
nor Wosted will serue turne? VVhole fault is that,
pray you? To whom he replyed, saying: Oh pardon
me sir, I beseech your worship, I am an old man, ~~and~~
not the first that haue married with a wanton young
woman, and youth coupled with age must needs
haue their owne swing : I tell your Worshipp my
good dayes be past, and now because I can not please
her aboue the knee, I must needs please her beneath
the knee : at which merry speeches M. Mayor got the
payment in the *Queenes* books for that time abated.
VVell quoth *Iacke of Doner*, this in my winde was
pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not
heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Buckingham.

THere was of late (quoth another of the *Iurie*) a
certaine Young man dwelling in *Buckingham*
who

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who had long time (in the way of marriage) made sute
unto a very rich Widdow in the same towne, and to
that purpose had spent much money, but all in vaine;
for he had purchased no more fauour at her handes,
than he had when first he began his sute: wherevpon
this Young man (not meaning as yet to giue ouer the
same) went another way to worke, made it knowne
to a Cousen of his, being a merry Gentleman of the
same towne, who taking the matter in hand, went to
this Widdowes house, and tolde her of his kinsman,
an olde suter of hers, how he had now prouided him-
selfe other wise of a wife, and meant not to trouble her
any further, and that he intended the next Sunday fol-
lowing to be askt in the Church, but that he doubted
she would forbid the banes: Not I by my troth, quoth
the Widdow, nor any one for me: Wherevpon the
old Gentleman procured her to set her hand to a band
of two hundred pound with this condition, that nei-
ther shee, nor any one for her, by any meanes should
then, or at any time after, forbid, or cause it to be for-
bidden: the which being done, away goes he, & wils
his foresayd kinsman to haste to the Church, and a-
gainst the next Sunday following, bespeake the banes
betwixt the widdow and himselfe. When Sunday
came, the Widdow gets her vp betimes in the mor-
row decking her selfe in her best apparell, and with all
the hies vnto the church, to heere who it was that
hould loue should marry: But when Seruice was
done;

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done, (contrary to her expectation) she heard that her owne name was askt vnto him, she was so abashed, that she knew not what to do; yet durst not (for feare of forfeiting her band) make any meanes to haue the bandes forbidden, but of force was content to let them alones and so at the day appoynted, she was maryed to the Young man, who prooued a very carefull Husband, and long lyued they together in great lone and vaine. Well, quoth *Iacke of Dower*, this in my minde was pretty foolerie: but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Northampton.

IN like manner (quoth another of the Iurie) there dwelled a certaine rich Gentleman of late in the Towne of *Northampton*, who being something giuen to the old Religion, was very charitable to the poore, and euery day gaue many a good Almes at his doores the which not a litle greened his wife, being a woman of a very couetous nature: but she hauing by good huswifery gathered together a pretty stocke of money, came vnto her husband (not knowing how to bestow it of her selfe) and deliuered it to him, being a bag of good old Angels and withall requested him to lay it out (for her vse) vpon some house or land, that if God should call him away, shee might the better maintaine her selfe afterward, The good old Gentleman knowing his wiues couetous nature, on this condition

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dixion takes her bag of Angels, promising with the same to buy her a house for ever : But so it hapned, that within few daies after he changed his wiues double gold into single silver, and alwayes when he went abroad (in a merry humour) he gaue of the same money to the poore, so bountifully bellowing it, that in a short time he had neuer a whit left : All this while the poore woman thought hee was espying her out a house: but at last maruelling she heard no newes thereof, tooke occasion to moue her husband of it, saying. I would gladly know good husband (quoth she) where the house is, you promised to buy with my money? Oh good wife, quoth he, it is in heauen wifes in heauen I haue bought a house for thee and mee wife : thy money hath purchased vs for ever a house in heauen, a house that will neuer decay, but stand eternally : meaning that the money he had giuen to the poore, had purchased the a house in heauen, where all good deeds are rewarded : but neuer after that time, would his wife giue him any more money, but kept it secret alone to her selfe. Well, quoth *Iacke of Douer*, this in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Oxford.

THere was vpon a time (quoth another of the Iury) a certaine merry Black-smith, dwelling in *Oxford*, who vpon a great Feastiuall day, was inuited to dine

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at a noblemans table, who kept house some two miles off; and being a merry conceited fellow, and full of iestes, he was placed amongst both Honorable and Worshipfull personages: to which Table, amongst many other dainties, there was serued in two Garret fishes, the one being of an exceeding great bignes, was set before the Nobleman himselfe; the other being a very little one, was placed in the dish that stood iust before this same Black-smith: who being in his merry moode, and hauing a desire to taste of the bigger Fish, tooke the little one in his hand, and laide it close to his care, barking to it as though it would haue spoken: which when the Nobleman perceiued, he greatly maruailed, and demaunded the cause of his doing so? Oh my good Lord, quoth hee, from a friend of mine lately drowned in the Seas, I would gladly heare some newes concerning whom I haue asked this little Fish, and he sayth that as yet he can tell little, by reason of his tender age, but he hath an olde kintman (he sayth) can tell more of the matter, which now lyeth there in the dish before you, therefore I beseech your Honour let me talke with him a little. Herewithall the Nobleman & his guesstes were greatly delighted, and so reached him downe the bigger Fish, wherein the merry Black-smith had his desire, & withall was well satisfied and contented. Well, quoth *Iacke of Doner*, this in my minde was pretty foolerie: but yet the Fool of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

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The Foole of Warwicke.

NOt many yeeres ago (quoth another of the Iury) there was dwelling in *Warwicke* a plaine Country Farmer, but none of the wisest, who on a time rising early in a morning, found his Hose eaten and gnawne with Rats; and being therewith greatly troubled in minde, thinking the same to be some token of misfortune comming towards him, went vnto a neighbour of his to craue his aduise and counsell therein, and to know what it signified, saying, that it was the strangest thing that euer he saw: But his honest neighbour noting the simplicitie of his wit, presently made him this answere. Surely good neighbour (quoth he) this is no such strange thing as you speake of; but if your Hose had eaten the Rattes, then had it been a strange thing in deed. Herevpon the poore Farmer seeing himselfe thus flouted to his face, went his way all ashamed. Well, quoth *lacke of Douer*, this in my minde was pretty foolery; but yet the Foole of all fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Couentrie.

VPon a time there was (quoth another of the Iury) a certaine Petty-Cannon, dwelling in *Couentrie*, to whose house, vpon a high feastiual day, there came an expeart and curious Musition, but very poore (as commonly men of the finest qualitie be) and in hope
- of

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of a reward, offered to shew him the rarest Musicke that euer he heard. Wilt thou so, quoth the Petty-Cannon? well, shew thy best, and the more cunningly that thou playest, the greater reward thou shalt haue. Herevpon the poore Musition cheered vp his spirits, and with his Instrument, plaide in a most stately manner before him a long season: wherevnto the Petty-Cannon gaue good care, and on a sodaine startes vp, and gets him into his study; where he remained some three or foure houres, not regarding the poore Musition that all this while stood playing in the Hall, hoping for some reward or other: afterwarde when it grew towards supper time, downe came the Petty-Cannon againe, & walkes two or three times one after another by the Musition, but sayes neuer a word: at which the Musition began to maruell; and hauing nothing all this while giuen him for all his labour, he boldly asked his reward. Why quoth the Petty-Cannon, the reward I promised thee, I haue already payde. As how? quoth the Musition, as yet was nothing giuen me. Yes quoth the Petty-Cannon, I haue giuen thee pleasure for pleasure; for I haue as much delighted thee with hope, as thou hast done me with Musicke. Well, quoth *lacke of Douer*, this in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

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The Foole of Lyster.

A Certaine Knight there was (quoth another of the Iury) that on a time as he rode through *Lyster*, had an occasion to alight and make water, and walking afterward a foote through the streetes, there came vnto him a poore Begger-man and asked of his worship one penny for Gods sake: One penny, quoth the Knight, that is no gylt for a man of worship to giue. Why then, quoth the Begger, giue mee an Angell? Nay, that (sayd the Knight) is no Almes for a Begger to take. Thus both wayes did he shake him off, as one worthy of no reward for his presumption. Well, quoth *Iacke of Dower*, this is likewise pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Nottingham.

THere was of late in *Nottingham* (quoth another of the Iury) a certaine Iustice of Peace, who one time ryding through the streete, he met with a swaggering companion, called *Cutting Tom*: who in a brauerie rooke the wall of M. Iustice, and almost tumbled both him and his horse downe into the durt: Wherevpon in an anger he caused the Ruffian to be staide, & asked him what he was? Mary (quoth *Cutting Tom*) I am a man as you are. But, quoth the Iustice, whom dost thou serue? Whom do I serue, quoth he, why I doe
serue

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serue God. Serue God, sayd the Iustices; what dost thou mocke mee? Goe carry the knaue to prison, Ile teach him some other answer, then to say, I serue God. To be short, to the laile was he born, where for that night he lay, and on the morrow brought before him againe. Now sirra, quoth the Iustice, are you better aduised yet? tell me, who do you serue now? Why quoth *Cutting Tom*, I serue God still: But, sayd the Iustice, dost thou serue no body else? Yes, quoth he, I serue my Lord President of *Yorke*. Gods body knaue, why didst not say so at first? Mary quoth he, because I had thought you had loued God better then my Lord President; for now I see for his sake I am let at liberty, and not for Gods: therefore Ile serue God no more, but stil my Lord President. Well, quoth *Iacke of Douer*, this in my minde was pretty foolery; but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Lincolne.

AS I heard say (quoth another of the Iurie) there dwelled of late, a certaine poore labouring man in *Lincolne*, who vpon a time, after his wife had reuiled him with tongue mettle, as the whole streete rung againe, for wearinesse thereof, at last he went out of the house, and sate him downe quietly vpon a blocke before his owne dore: his wife being more out of patience, by his quietnes & gentle sufferance, went vp into the Chamber, and out at the window powred
downe

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downe a Pisse-pot vpon his head: which when the poore man saw, in a merry moode he spake these wordes. Now surely, quoth he, I thought at last that after so great a thunder, we should haue some raine. Well, quoth *Iacke of Doner*, this in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all Fowles is not heere to be found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Yorke.

OF late there was dwelling in *Yorke* (quoth an other of the Iury) a certaine merry Cloathyer, a passing good house-keeper, and one whose Table was free for any man: but so it hapned on a time, amongst many other sitting at his Table, there was a Countrey Gentleman named Maister *Fuller*, with whom as then he meant to be merry, and therefore finding occasion, he spake as foloweth. Now I pray you Maister *Fuller* quoth he (hauing as then diuers sortes of Wildsoules vpon the Table) which doe you thinke the better meate of a Partridge or a Woodcocke? Mary quoth he, I do thinke a Partridge. Not in my minde quoth the Cloathier, for I take a Woodcocke to be the better meate: for a Woodcocke is fuller in the wing, fuller in the legge, fuller in the pinion, and fuller is the Woodcocke in all places: at which the whole company laughed hartely, and M. *Fuller* heard himselfe called Woodcocke by craft. VVell quoth *Iacke of Doner*, this in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the foole of all fowles is not heere found, that I looke for,

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The Foole of Durham.

VPon a time (quoth another of the Iury) there was a certaine lewde pilfring fellow that serued a Gentleman of *Durham*, whom he kept for no other purpose, but onely to make cleane the yardes, sweepe the streetes, fetch in water, & such other drudgeries: This fellow vpon a time hauing stolne and conuaide away certaine trifling thinges out of his masters house, as he had done before in diuers places where he dwelt, and being now detected for the same, and brought before his M. His excuse was, that by no meanes he could do withall, for it was his fortune to steale, & who (quoth he) can withstand his hard fortune? Why then said his Maister, it is also thy hard fortune to be whipt, which being likewise thy destiny, thou canst not preuent it: here the seruant alleadged that fortune was the cause of his fault: the Master likewise returneth, that fortune was the cause of his punishment: to be short, it was the poore fellowes hard fortune to be well whipt, and so turned out of seruice. Well quoth *Iacke of Douer*; this in my minde was pretty foolerie: but yet the Foole of al fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Westchester.

VPon a time (quoth another of the Iury) there was a widow woman dwelling in *Westchester* that had taken a certaine sum of money of two Cony-catchers to keepe vpon this condition, that she should not deliuer it againe to the one without the other: but so to

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happned that within a while after, one of these Conny-catchers fayned his fellow to be dead, and came in mourning cloathes to the woman & demaunded the money: The simple woman thinking his words to be true, beleueed that his fellow was dead in deed, and therevpon deliuered him the money: now within few dayes after commeth the other Conicatcher, and of the woman likewise demaundeth the same moneys but vnderstanding of the deliuey therof before to his fellow without his cōsent (as the bargaine was made) he arrested the poore woman to London, & brought her to great trouble: but being at last brought to tryall before the Iudges of the Court, she sodainely slippt to the barre, & in this maner pleaded her owne cause. My good Lordes (quoth she) here is a fellow troubles me without cause, and puts me to a needles charge: what need he seeke for triall, when I confesse the debt, and stand heere ready to deliuer his money? Why that is all quoth the Conicatcher, that I demaunde. I but (quoth the woman) do you remember your condition? which is, that I must not deliuer it to the one without the other; therefore go fetch thy fellow, and thou shalt haue thy mony. Herevpon the Conicatcher was so astonished that he knew not what to say, for his fellow was gone, and he could not tell where to finde him: by which meanes he was constrained to let his action fall, and by the Law was condemned to pay her charges, & withall great damages for troubling her

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her without cause. Well, quoth *Iacke of Dower*, this in my minde was pretty foolery; but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Northumberland.

THere was of late (quoth another of the Iurie) a certaine simple fellow dwelling in *Northumberland*, that could not well remember his owne name, nor tell rightly to the number of iust twentie, yet would many times giue such good admonitions as the wisest man in all the countrey could not giue better: but awongst all other, this one is worthy of memory, for going in an euening through a greene field, it was his chaunce to ouer heare a lusty young Bachelor, making sute to a faire Milkemayde for a nights lodging: who for the same demaunded a brace of Angelles? wherevpon the foole sodainely starting backe, merrely sayd vnto him. Oh my good frinde (quoth hee) I prethee buy not repentaunce so deare: signifying to the wise, that after dishonest pleasure, repentaunce followeth speedely. Well, quoth *Iacke of Dower*, this in my minde was foolish wisdom, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

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The Foole of Westmerland.

OF late there was dwelling in *Westmerland* (quoth another of the Iury) a certaine simple Taylor that by his Maister was sent some two mile off to a Gentleman, named Maister *Taylor*, to demaund a litle money due vnto his maister for making of foure futes of apparell: but cōming to the Gentleman when he had not so much in the house as would discharge the debt, yet meaning not to abate his credit so much as to tell the fellow so, he found this wittie shift to drue him off for that time, for when the Taylers man demanded the money, he asked the fellow what he was? And please your worship (quoth he) I am by occupation a Taylor: A Taylor in a knaves name (said the Gentleman) heeres euery knave as well as my selfe wil be a Taylor: but I prethee friend, what taylor art thou? for there be diuers sorts of Taylers: there be Taylors by name: There be marchant Tailors: There be womens Taylers, there be snipping Taylors, there be cutting Taylors, there be botching Taylors, and there be honest Taylors, and there be theeuing Taylors. By this description of Taylors, he droue the poore fellow to such a quandary, that he knew not what to say, but returned like a foole as he went, without either money or answer. VVell quoth *Iacke of Dower*, this in my minde was pretty toolery, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

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As how sayd the Inkeeper? Mary thus, quoth the Foole, You layde a wager with mee, that most of the Towne were not Phisitions, and I haue prooued that they be, for most part in euery houte, I haue learned Medicines for my teeth, and they that giue Medicines can be no other then Phisitions: in witnes whereof, see heere in my Booke what is set downe. The Inkeeper seeing himselfe thus overtreacht, confessed the wager, and payde the Foole his money. VVeil quoth *Iacke of Doner*, this in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Winchester.

Not far from *Winchester*, there dwelled (quoth another of the Iury) a certaine simple Iustice, to whom a Countrey Gentleman made complaint, of the ill demeanors & disordered liues of many vnder Officers in his libertie, requesting him that he would send for them, & put them in some feare: the which he promised to do: wherevpon he sent his warrant for all the Bayliffes, Constables, Headborrhoughes, and Churchwardens, that were in his liberty, and putting them altogether in a great Chamber, he put on a night gowne which was furred with blacke Lambe skins, with the wrong side outwards, & so with his hand before his face, as halfe blinded, ran backwards at them, crying Boe bulbaggar, as some vse to feare children withall, & so according to the Gentlemans complaint

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he feared them away. Well, quoth *Iacke of Douer*, this in my minde was pretty foolerie: but yet the Foole of al fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Gloster.

Vpon a time (quoth another of the Iury) a certaine fellow wanting money, came vnto *Gloster*, where hapning into the company of a sort of Maister Colliars, he sodainely began this speach: My good friendes (quoth he) if any of you will gaine by a poore man, draw neare: I will giue you that thing for a shilling a peece, which if you vse it well, shall be worth a crowne to you: wherevpon the Colliars in hope of benefite, bellowed some few shillings vpon him, and he to euerie one of them gaue fower yardes of fine threed, which of purpote he had in his pocket: but to euery one that receaued the threed he gaue this Item. Take heed quoth he, when you see a foole or a knaue, that you let him not come neare you, by the length of this threed, and it will be worth a Crowne the obseruing of it: whereat they all laughed to see themselves made fooles in this manner. Well, quoth *Iacke of Douer*, this in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Denonshire.

AFTER this, traouelling from *Gloster*, I tooke my iorney into *Denonshire*, where in the time of my continuance there, I had intelligence of a plaine countrey Ploughman there dwelling, who for his simplenes almost

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most euery one made a toole of: but amongst the rest,
a certaine couetous Gentleman, hauing a desire to a
good milch Cow which this poore Ploughman had,
would very often times say in his hearing, that what
gystes soeuer any man gaue him with a good will,
should before the yeeres end, be turned double againe:
this poore Ploughman noting his wordes very often,
and thinking to haue two Kine for his one, before
the yeeres end, which would as he thought be a great
benefite to him, gaue him his said Cow: the couetous
Gentleman taking the same very gladly, meaning
neuer to returne her backe, put her into his neat-
house amongst his other Kine. The poore Ploughman
hying himselfe home, daily expecting when his Cow
should come home double: at last vnawares in an
euening, he heard his Cow low before his window,
which by chaunce had broke out of the Gentlemans
stable, and an other fat Oxe with her, which when the
Ploughman saw, he held vp his handes, blessing him-
selfe, saying: see how the Lord workes with this good
Gentleman, for he pittying my estate, hath sent my
Cow double home in deed, the which I will here take
at his hands very thankfully: so dryuing them both in-
to his house, he killed the fat Oxe and salted him vp in
powdring tubbes, and caryed his Cow the next mor-
ning againe to the Gentleman, saying: and please your
worship, yester night you sent her home to my house
according to your promise, which heere I giue to

Iacke of Doners quest of inquirie.

you againe to day, hoping still of your wanted curtesies. The Gentleman not regarding his speeches, but thinking them to be mere foolishnesse in deed, tooke the poore mans Cow againe, and put her into his stable amongst beastes as before he did: but the Cowe not forgetting her old Maisters house, came still once a weeke home with a fellow, and so continued untill such time as the poore Ploughman had sixe or seauen of the Gentlemans best Becues in his powdring tubs, but being discouerd, the Gentleman could neuer by his owne wordes recouer any thing at the poore mans handes. This in my minde was pretty foolerie: but yet the Foole of all fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Cornewall.

THUS trauellling with my priuie search from *Devonshire*, I came to *Cornewall*, where after I had made my iorney, I was told of a humorous Knight dwelling in the same countrey, who vpon a time hauing gathered together in one open market place a great assemblie of Knights, Squires, Gentlemen, and Yoemen, and whilest they stood expecting to heare some discourse or speech to proceed from him: he in a foolish manner (not without laughter) began to vse a thousand iestures, turning his eyes this way, then that way, seeming alwayes as though he would haue presently begun to speake, and at last fetching a deepe sigh,

Iacke of Doners' quest of inquirie.

sigh, with a grunt like a Hogge, he let a beastly loude fart, and tould them, that the occasion of this calling of them together, was to no other ende, but that so nable a fart, might be honoured with so worthy a company as there was. This in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I look for.

The Foole of Hampshire.

AFTER this, I tooke my iorney from *Cornewall*, and came into *Hampshire*, where remayning in the towne of *Southampton*, I heard tell of a certaine old Begger-woman, who vpon a time came a begging to a Dutchmans doore there dwelling, and seeing a Iacke an Apes there on the stal mumping and moing at her, she according to her wit, sayd: Oh my pretty Boy, quoth she, I prethee mocke me not, for I may be thy Grandam for mine age: which words, a young man of the house ouerhearing, sayd vnto her, Oh Mother you mistake, for this is no child you speake vnto. No is it not quoth she, I pray what is it then? Mary sayd the fellow, it is a Iacke an Apes. A Iacke an Apes quoth she: Now Iesus what these Fleminges can make for money, thinking verily it had been a thing made by mens hand. This in my minde was pretty folerie, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The

Iacke of Doners quest of inquirie.

The Foole of Barkshire.

TRauelling after this, from *Southernampton*, I tooke my iorney into the country of *Barkshire*, where not farre from *Reading*, I heard tel of a certaine lewde Doctor of Phisicke, that bore such affectiō to a Mealemans wife of the same Countrey, that shee by no meanes coul'd be rid of him, wherevpon she certified her Husband therof: he in this maner was reuenged on him. Thus it hapned, vpon a time this merry Meale-man counterfeited himselfe to be starke mad, and caused his wife to send for this Doctor with all speed: who no sooner receiued the message, as well to shewe his loue to the woman he affected, as to haue reward of her husband, came with all speed to this counterfeited patient: the newes of whose comming was no sooner brought to the Meale-man, who attended his comming in his bed, but presently he made such a shew of madnesse, as if he had been possessed with a thousand Diuels; to whose presence the Doctor being brought, with many chearfull words he comforted the Meale-man, who stared in his face, as if he would haue torne him in peeces, yet ceased not his friendes about him, to yeeld the Doctor many thanks, beseeching him to regard the manner of his fits, and to view the water he made that morning, to which he willingly agreed: For which purpose there was prepared in a Vrinall, the water of a Mire great with sole, which the Doctor viewed, and againe reuewed, hauing neuer seene the like

Iacke of Douers quest of inquirie.

The Foole of Lancaster.

THere was of late (quoth another of the Iurie) a Ploughman & a Butcher dwelling in *Lancaster*, who for a trifling matter (like two fooles) went to law, and spent much money therein, almost to both their vadoings: but at last, being both consented to be tride by a Lawyer dwelling in the same towre, each of them in hope of a further fauour, bestowed gyltes vpon him: The Ploughman first of all presented him a cupple of good fat Hens, desiring M. Lawyer to stand his good friend, and to remember his sute in Law; the which he courteously tooke at his handes, saying: that what fauour he could shew him, he shoud he sure of the vtermoost. But now when the Butcher heard of the presenting of these Hens by the Ploughman, hee went and presently killed a good fatte Hogge, and in like manner presented it to the Lawyer as a bribe to draw him to his side: the which he also tooke very curteously, and promised the like to him as he did befare to the other: But so it fell out, that shortly after, the Verdict passed on the Butchers side: which when the Ploughman had notice of, he came vnto the Lawyer, and asked him wheretore his two Hens were forgotten? Mary quoth he, because there came in a fatte Hogge and ate them vp. Now a vengeance take that Hog, quoth the Ploughman, that ate both my sute in Law, and Hens together. Well, quoth *Iacke of Douer*,

Lacke of Dowers quest of inquirie.

this in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the fool
of all fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Worstershire.

THere was on a time remayning in *Worstershire*,
(quoth another of the Iury) a certaine Poet or ver-
cifier, that had dedicated a Booke of Poetrie to a mer-
rie Gentleman there dwelling, thereby to purchase
his fauour and reward withall: when the Poet had
presented the Booke vnto him, the Gentleman in out-
ward shew tooke it very kindly; but without any
answere at all giuen to the poore Scholler, he put it vp
into his pocket and went his wayes: within a while
after, the Poet (to put him in minde thereof) gaue him
certaine excellent Verses, the which he likewise tooke,
and put into his pocket without any answeere at all: in
this manner did the poore Scholler often times put
the Gentleman in minde of his goodwill, but all in
vaine, for neither had he a reward nor answeere at all
backe. But now at last marke what hapned, when the
Gentleman saw he could not be rid of the Poet by a-
nie meanes, himselfe with his owne handes writ cer-
taine Verses in Latten, and when he spied him againe
comming towards him, he sent him the Verses by one
of his seruantes: the Scholler courteously tooke, and
read them, not only with a loude voyce, but with plea-
sing iesture and amiable countenance, praying them
with wonderfull admiration; and therevpon comming
nearer to the Gentleman, he put his hand into his
poc-

Iacke of Douers quest of inquirie.

pocket, and pulled out a few single two pences, and offered the vnto him, saying: It is no reward for your estate (Right worshipfull) but if I had more, more would I giue: Herevpon the Gentleman in regarde of the Schollers good wit, called his Purse-bearer, & commaunded foure Angels forthwith to be giuen him. Well, quoth *Iacke of Douer*, this in my minde was pretty foolerie, but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of winfor.

Vpon a time there was in *Winfor* (quoth another of the Iury) a certaine simple outlandish Doctor of Physicke belonging to the Deane, who on a day being at dinner in Eaton Colledge, in a pleasant humor asked of Maister Deane, what strange matter of worth he had in the Colledge that he might see, and make report of when he came into his owne Countrey? wherevpon the Deane called for a Boy out of the Schole of some sixe yeeres of age: who being brought before him, he vsed this speech. M. Doctor quoth he, this is the onely wonder that I haue, which you shall quickly find, if you will aske him any question: wherevpon the D. calling the Boy to him, said these words. My pretty Boy (quoth he) what is it that men to admire in thee? My vnderstanding, quoth the boy. Why sayd he Doctor, what dost thou vnderstand? vnderstand my selfe said the boy, for I knew my selfe to be a child.

Lacke of Douers quest of inquirie.

child. Why quoth the Doctor, couldest thou thinke that thou wert a man? Not so easely M. Doctor, answered the boy, as to thinke that a man may be a child. As how sayd the Doctor? By this, quoth the Boy: for I haue heard, that an old man decayed in wit, is a kind of child, or rather a foole. With that the Doctor casting a frowning smile vpon the boy, vsed these words. Truly thou art a rare childe for thy wit, but I doubte thou wilt prooue like a Sommer Apple; soone ripe, soone rotten: thou art so full of wit now, that I feare thou wilt haue little when thou art old. Like enough sayd the Boy: but will you giue me leaue to shew my opinion vpon your wordes? Yes my good wag (sayd hee.) Then M. Doctor, quoth the Boy, I gather by your words, that you had a good wit when you were young. The Doctor biting the lip, went his way very much displeased at the Boyes witty reason, thinking himselfe euer after to be a foole. Well, quoth *Lacke of Douer*, this in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the foole of al fooles is not here found, that I look for.

The Foole of Darbie.

VPon a time there chaunced (quoth another of the Iurie) to come vnto a Gentlemans house at *Darbie*, a certaine Goldsmith of London, who after dinner, looking well vpon the Gentlemans Cubbord of Plate, where amongst many other peeces very richly wrought, he had a chiefe likeing to two siluer Cupps; the one was made in fashion of a Tigar; the other

Iacke of Dowers quest of inquirie.

ther of a Crabfish: wherevpon he desired the Gentleman to lend him for a day or two the Cup made like a Tigar to make another by it: which hauing obtained, he carryed it away with him, & kept it at his house full three monthes; which the Gentleman nothing pleased with, sent to him for it: which hauing gotten home, it fell out that within few dayes after, the same Goldsmith sent to the Gentleman againe to borrow his other Cup of the Crabfish: to whose messenger, the Gentleman made this pleasant answer. I prethee my good friend quoth he, commende me to thy Maister, and tell him I would be glad to doe him any pleasure, but seeing my Tiger which I tooke to be one of the swiftest Beastes in the world, hath been three monthes in going between *London* and *Darbie*, truley I feare my Crab is so slow, that if I should let him creepe out of my doores, he would be three yeeres in comming home againe, and therfore intreate him to pardon me. Well, quoth *Iacke of Dower*, this in my minde was pretty foolery; but yet the Foole of all Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of Shrewesburie.

IN *Shrewesburie* there was of late (quoth another of the Iury) a substantiall Inkeeper, that kept a certaine Foole in his house, of whom he demaunded on a time, of what profession he thought most men of the towne to be of: Who answered, that he thought they were Phisitions. Phisitions, quoth the Inkeeper,
D. what

Iacke of Dancers quest of inquirie.

What wager wilt thou lay on that? Mary, answered the Foole, I will lay five Crownes, and that within few dayes I will approve it, or else I will pay the money: Well, said the Inkeeper, thou shalt either pay it, or be well payde for it, if it be not so: but if thou make it good, thou shalt have five Crownes of mee. Content quoth the foole: so vpon the next morning he put a clout vnder his chin & ouer his mouth, and laying his hand vnder his lawes, went hanging his head, vp and downe the towne, as if he had bin very sicke: but at last coming into a Cutlers shop, a friend of his, he made great shew of the paine of the Toothach, asking of him a medicine for the same: who presently taught him one, with which he thankfully departed: and with this deuice, he went almost to euery house of the Towne, to learne a medicine for the Toothach, setting downe in a Booke diuers medicines, with their names that gaue them: which being done, he returned to the Inkeeper, with his clout about his mouth, seeming to be sore payned with the Toothach: which the Inkeeper perceiuing, in pittie brake into this speech: Alas poore foole, neuer feare it, if it be but the Toothach, He helpe thee presently. I pray you do (quoth the Foole) for I am in cruell paine: which he no sooner taught him, but the Foole pulling off his clout, fell into a great laughing, with these words: This is the best medicine that euer I learned, for it hath not onely made me whole, but hath gotten me five Crownes.

As

lacke of Dowers quest of inquirie.

like before, casting many doubtēs of the Mealemans recouerie, standing thus in a quantary as one driuen to a nonplus : which by the Mealemans friendes being perceiued, they drew him secretly into another roome, earnestly desiring him to shew his opinion of the disease, whether it were dangerous or no : The Doctōr being loath to speake what he found, yet to satisfie their mindes, he thus sayd. Be it knowne, quoth he, that the strangenes of the water, sheweth a thing contrary to nature: for by it I see he hath within his body some lyuing forme, and a child it is in my opinion, for which I am sorry, and desire you that be his good friendes, o pray for him, that God may take mercy on his soule. Here vpon the Mealemans wife being then present, and meaning with the rest to follow still the rest, hearing so strange a report, cryed out against her husband, sayning a dessembling cry, and wishing her selfe neuer to haue been borne, rather then to liue a poynting stocke in the world: which speech being verie well deliuered, as one possessed with a Diuell, she in a great rage flung away from the company, and would not be intreated to returne againe. The Doctōr hauing heard so woefull a cry proceed from the saint he so dearely loued, thought all ha bin faythfully ment, which was saynedly spoken, therefore going secretly alone vnto her where she late, and in briefe tearmes of wooing, promised her, if she would grant to become his wife, he would sodainely end her grieve

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lacke of Doners quest of inquirie.

by the death of her husband, therfore say amen to my fate, and I will giue him such a drinke as soone will dispatch his life: the woman not as yet meaning to marre the pastime they intended, requested him to stay for her answer till the morrow, and to take a hard lodging in her house for that night: to the which the Doctor most willingly agreed, and so after supper was ended, he was conducted to his bedde: where he was no sooner warre, but the Mealeman playing his mad pranks, entred the chamber, breaking open the doore to the Doctors admiration: who in a fearefull maner asked what he wold haue? Villaine, quoth the Mealeman, he shall, or die vpon my knife: the D. knowing it was but foillie to resist a mad man, most quietly yeelded to his will: wherevpon the Mealeman binding him hand and foote called in his friendes, who came in disguised, and with Burtchin rods so belabored the Doctor, as they left him no skinne on his body: that done, they plunged him in a tubbe of salt brine ouer head and eares, that he forget his loue, & almost himselfe; so leaving him to his rest till morning, and then they brought with them a Surgion, who in presence of them all, cut out his stoces: which being done, and the wound dreist, they caused him vpon a mangie Iade to be Rist, and so sent him away to seeke his fortune. This in my minde was pretty foolery, but yet the foole of all tookes is not heere found, that I looke for.

Iacke of Doners quest of inquirie.

The Foole of Essex.

AFter this, I tooke my iourney from *Barkshire*, and came into *Essex*, where searching vp & downe the Countrey, I was told of a certaine *Widow* dwelling there, that was euermore troubled with foure importunate suiters: namely a *Lawyer*, a *Merchant*, a *Souldier*, and a *Courtier*; euery one of them so earnest in their affections, that no way would serue turne, for the *Widow* they must needs haue, whether she will or no: but she bearing more loue to the *Courtier* then to all the rest, she like a wily wench, rid them off in this maner: to the *Lawyer* she first comes & secretly comfortes him, saying, that aboue all others she had chosen him for her husband, and none but he; but (quoth she) you know how I am troubled with my other suiters, & except we be secretly conuaid to the church without their knowledge, surely we shall by them be intercepted, therefore to morow morning I haue you tied vp in a meale sacke heere in my house, and by a *Potter* (which I wil sende) shall be borne to *Chensford*, where I in mans apparel wil stay your comming, & so without any of their suspitions, we will be married together: which pollicie the *Lawyer* so well lyked of, that he was got readie in the Sacke by three a clocke the next morning: but now the *Widdow* in the meane time, had told the *Merchant*, that shee would be his wife, and none but his, and that hee the same morning should come like a *Porter*, and fetch her to Church

Iacke of Douers quest of inquirie.

tyde vp in a Meale sacke: the which he was very diligent to doe; and attyred thus in a Porters apparell, he was set to carry the Lawyer in the Sacke to *Chensford* in stead of the widdow; who being both deceued, & gone forward in their iorney, she sent the Souldier after them (disguised like a Tinger) to belabour their fooles coates soundly, with this condition, that at his returne she would make him her husband: this hope caused the Souldier to be as willing to performe her desire, as she to commaund his labour: But now marke the iests; whilst these three were sent like Woodcocks to *Chensford*, the Courtier and she were married together at *Burnswood*. Which in my minde was prettie foolery, but yet the Foole of al Fooles is not heere found, that I looke for.

The Foole of London.

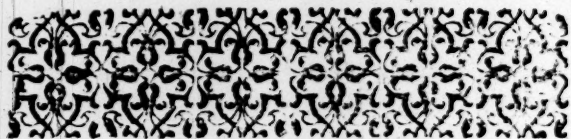
AT my first entrie into *London*, and making my priuy searck there for this aforesayd Foole, I was told of a rich Vsurers sonne there dwelling, who at his fathers discease was left owner of a very sumptuous house, with great store of lands belonging thereunto; which humerous young man vpon a time seeing one of his neighbors hauing built his house in forme of a Castle, with ditch and rampires al about it, he desired to haue his made of the like fashion: the which being no longer finished, but he saw another of his neighbors haue a faire set of Apple trees in the forme of an Orchard, he desired to haue the like, and caused his a-
fore-

Lacke of Doners quest of inquirie.

foresaid house to be plucked downe, & planted in the place such a set of Apple trees as the other man had: which being come to a good groath, he caused them also to be rooted vp, saying; it were far better to haue it a feeld of Cabages: and in the ende his sumptuous house came to be a garden of Cabages: yet not suffised with this, he in an other humor, bought all the Geese in that country, supplanted his Garden of Cabages, & made it a faire Greene for these creatures to graze vpon: and being of a friend of his asked wherefore he did so he answered, that from Geese came Feathers, wherewith to make Boulsters and Beds, and on them he had greater neede then of Cabages, or such like thinges, that grow in Gardens. This was pretty foolery, but yet the Foole of all fooles is not heere found that I looke for.

The Fooles of Pawles, or Fooles in generall.

WELL (quoth one of the Iury) if we cannot find the foole we looke for, amongst these fooles before named, one of vs will be the Foole: for in my minde, there cannot be a verier foole in the world, then is a Poet: for Poets haue good wits, but can not vse them: great store of money, but can not keepe it: and many friends, till they lose them: therefore we thinke fit to haue a Parliament of Poets, & to enact such Lawes and Statutes, as may prooue beneficiall to the Commonwealth, of lacke of Doners Moutly coated Fooles.



Heere beginneth the pen- niles Parliament of threed-bare Poets.

First of all, for the increase of euery Foole in his humor, we thinke it necessary and conuenient, that all such as buyes this Booke and laughes not at it before he hath read it ouer, shall be condemned of melancholy, and be adjudged to walke ouer More-fildes twice a weeke in a foule shirt.

It also agreed vpon, that long bearded men shal seldom prooue the wyfeste, and that a niggards purse shall scarce bequeath his Maister a good dinner: and because water is like to prooue so weake an Element in the world, that men and women wil want reares to bewayle their sinnes; we charge and commaunde all Gardners to sow more store of Onions, for feare Widdowes should want moysture to bewayle their Husbandes funerals.

In like maner we thinke it fit, that Red-wine should be drunke with Oysters, and that some Maydens shal blush more for shame then for shamefastnes: but men
must

of threedbare Ports.

must haue care, least conuersing too much with redd petticoates, they bannish their haire from their heads, and by that meanes, make the poore Barbers beggers for want of worke.

Furthermore it is lawfull for those Women, that euery morning taste a pint of Muskedine with Egges, to chide as well as they that drinke small Beere all the Winter: and those that clippe that they should not, shall haue a Horse nightcap for their labour: Gentlemen that sell land for Paper, shall buy penury with repentance: and those that haue most golde, shall haue least grace: some that meane well, shall fare worse: and he that hath no credite, shall haue lesse commodity.

It is also ordered and agreed vpon, that such as are coloricke, shall neuer want woe and sorrow: and they that lacke money, may feast vpon Frydayes by the Statute: and it shall be lawfull for them that want Shooes, to weare Bootes all the yere: and he that hath neuer a Cloake, may without offence, put on his best Gowne at Midsommers witnes olde *Prime* the keeper of *Bedlem* Dicing house.

In like maner it is agreed vpon, that what day soeuer *Pauls* Church hath not in the middle Ile if it either a Broker, Maisterles man, or a penniles companion, the Vsurers of *London* shall be sworne by oath to bestow a new Steeple vpon it: and it shall be lawfull for Conicatchers to fall together by the eares about the foure Knaues at Gardes, which of them may claime superi;

The penniles Parliament

superioritie, and whether false Dice or true, be of the most antiquitie.

Furthermore we thinke it necessary and lawfull, for the husband and wife to fall at square for superiority, in such sort, as the wife shall sit playing about in the chamber while the Husband standes painting below in the Kitchen: Likewise we markt all Brokers to be knaues by letter pattents, and Vsurers for five markes a peece, shall lawfully be buried in the Chauncell, though they haue bequeathed their soules and bodies to the Diuell in Hell.

In like manner it is thought good, that it shall be lawfull for Muskelines in Vintners sellers to indite their Maisters of commixtion, and Sargantes shall be contented to arrest any man for his fees: Alewiues shall sell flesh on Frydayes without Lysence, and such as sell Beere in halfe-penny pottes, shall utter Bread and Cheese for money throughout the whole yeere: and those that are past honestie and shame, shall smile at sinne: and they that care not for God; preferre money before Conscience.

Furthermore, it shall be lawfull for Foote-stooles (by the helpe of womens handes) to flie about without winges, and poore men shall be accounted knaues without occasions: those that flatter least, shall speede worst: and Pigges by the Statute shall daunce the Antickes with bells about their neckes, to the wonder and amazement of all Swineheards,

of threedbare Poets.

In like manner it is conuenient, that many men shal weare Hoodes that haue litle learning: and some further so much vpon wit, and strue so long against the streame, as their neckes shall fayle them: some shall buylde faire houses by brybes, gather much wealth by contention, and before they be aware, heape vp riches for another, and wretchednes for themselves.

Furthermore it shall be established, for the benefite of increase, that some shall haue a Timpanie in their bellies, which will coit them a child bearing: & though the father beare all the charges, it shall be a wife child that shall know his owne father.

It shall be lawfull for some to haue a Palfie in their teeth in such sort, as they shall cate more then ever they will be able to pay for: some such a Megram in their eyes, as they shall hardly know another mans wife from their owne: some such a stopping in their hartes as they shal be viterly obstinat to receiue grace: some such a buzzing in their eares, as they shall be enemies to good countell: some such a sin in their noses, as no beast shall escape without their companies: and some shall be so needy, as neither young Heyres shall get their owne, nor poore Orphan their patrimonie.

Also, it is enacted and decreed, that some shall be so humerous in their walkes, as they can not step one foote from a foole: some so consumed in mangle, as they shall keepe neuer a good thought to blessing themselves.

The penniles Parliament

selues: some to disguised in purse, as they count it fatal to haue one penny to buy their dinners on Sundayes: some to burdned in conscience, as they count wrongfull dealing, the best badge of their occupation.

But amongst other Lawes & Statutes, by vs heere established, we thinke it most necessary & conuenient, that Poulters shall kill more innocent Poultry by custome, then their wiuues and maydes can sell without good conscience: also it is ordered and agreed vpon, that Bakers, Woodmongers, Butchers, and Brewers, shall fall to a mighty conspiracie, so that no man shall either haue Bread, Fire, Meate, or Drinke, without credite or ready money.

Sicophantes by the Statute shall haue great gyftes, and good and godly Labours shall scarce be worth thanks: it is also thought necessary, that maydes about midnight shall see wondrous visions, to the great hart grieve of their mothers.

Furthermore it is marked & set downe, that if Lawyers plead poore mens cautes without money, Westminster hall shall grow out of custome, to the great inpoouering of all Nimbers, Listers, & Cutpurfes. Those that sing Bases shall loue good drinke by authoritie: and Trumpeters that sounde Trebles shall starue by custome: women that weare long Gownes, may lawfully rayse dust in March: and they that keepe a temperate dyet, shall neuer die on surfers.

In like manner it shall be lawfull for Saylor and
Soule-

of threedbare Poets.

Souldiers, to spende at their pleasures, what they get by their Sworde: and if the Treasurer pay them any thing beyond count and reckoning, if they buyld not an Hospitall therewith, they may bestow it in apparel by the statute.

It is further established and agreed vpon, that they that drinke too much Spanish Sacke, shal about Iuly be serued with a *Fierie faces*: But Oh you Ale-knights, you that deuoure the marrow of the Mault, & drinke whole Ale tubs into consumptions that sing *Queene Dido* ouer a Cupp, and tell strange newes ouer an Ale pot; how vnfortunate are you, who shall pisse out that which you haue swallowed downe so sweetly: you are vnder the Law, and shall be awarded with this punnishment, that the rot shall infect your Purles, and eate out the bottoms ere you be aware.

It is also agreed vpon, and thought necessarie, that some Womens lippes shall swell so big, as they shall long to kisse other men beside their Husbands: others cheekes shall be so monstrous out of frame, as they cannot speake in a iust cause without large fees: some with long tongues shall tell all thinges which they heare: some with no braynes shall meddle much and know little: and those that haue no feete, may by the statute go on crutches.

Furthermore, it is conuenient and thought meete, that Ale shall exceede so farre beyond his boundes as many stomackes shall be drowned in licoure, and

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therypen wil follow the Dropſie, to the great benefit of all Philiſtines: it is lawfull for ſome to take ſuch purgative drugs, that if nature helpe not, the wormes in the Churches in London, ſhall keepe their Chriſtmas at Midſommer in their bellies: But Taylors by this meanes, ſhall haue more conſciences; for where they were wont to ſeale but one quarter of a Cloake, they ſhall haue licence to nicke their cuſtomers in the Lace, and beſide their olde fees, take more then enough for new faſhions ſake: but now touching the following Articles, we are to aduize old men to looke with Spectakles, leaſt in finding ouer many wicelines, they waxe blind with reading.

And now touching the beenniſite of priuate houſes, by our rate and exquisite Iudgements, we thinke it very commodious, that thoſe married men of weak wit, and worſe courage, ſhould prouide themſelues of good weapons to defende themſelues from affautes, which ſhall ſlayle them about midnight: And it ſhall be lawfull for all Wiues to haue a Maſculline courage, in ſuch ſort, that they who haue had their wiues to this houre, ſhall haue the maſtrie all the yeere after: and theſe Huſbandes which doth not valiantly reſiſt them, ſhall be awarded to pay a Sheepes head to their next neighbour, in pennance for their folly.

As by our prouident iudgments we haue ſcene into the lamentable miſeries, incident in theſe partes of the

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world, so for the reformation thereof, we do ordaine and enact that the oyle of Holly, shall prooue a present remedie for a shrewde Huswife, accounting *Socrates* for a flat soole, that suffered his wife to crowne him with a Pispot : ordayning, that all those that giues their wiues their owne willes, to be fooles by acte of Parliamēt.

Also it is further established and agreed vpon, that *Essex* Calues shall indite Butchers Kniues of wilfull murder : and whosoeuer wil prooue a partiall Iury man, shall haue a hot Sheepes skinne for his labour. Bow Bell in Cheapeside (if they breake not) shall bee warrented by Letters pattentes to ring well : and if the Cundet heades want no water, the Tankerd-bearers shall haue one Custard more to their tolemne dinners; then their vsuall custome.

Moreouer, it is thought good, that it shall be lawfull for all Tripe-wiues to be exquisite Phisitions, for in one Offall they shall finde more Simples, then euer *Gallen* gathered since he was christened : Beside, if Dauncers keepe not tyce and time in their measures, they shall forfeite a fat Goose to their teacher for their slender iudgement. The French *Morbus* by commission, shall be worth three weekes dyet : and they who haue but one Shute to shift them withall, may by the Law straine curtesie to weare a fowle one vpon the Sunday : Also our Commission shall be sent soorth for the increase of Hempe, as not onely Vplande
F 3. grounds

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grounds shall be plentifully stored therewith, but also it shall so prosper in the high wayes, as the stalkes thereof shall touch the top of Tiborne.

In like manner we thinke it is necessary and conuenient, that there shall be great noyse of warres in Tauiernis, and Wine shall make some so venterous, as they will destroy *Tyrone*, and all his power at one draught: also we thinke it meete, that there be craft in all occupations, and those that are penitent in this world, shall haue comfort in a better: Silke weauers by the Statute, shall prosper well, if they wash their handes cleane on Fasting dayes, for otherwise in soyling their worke, they shall loose their Worke-masters: Dawes by authoritie shall leaue building in Steeples, and dwell in Citties: and such as are cunning in Musicke, shall know a Crotchet from a Quauer: but let such men as instruct youth, be very circumspect, for if they learne more then their Maisters can reach them, they shal forfeite their wittes to those that bring them vp.

Furtherm ore, we thinke it most necessarie & conuenient, that the generation of *Iudas* should walke about the world in these our latter dayes, and sell his neighbour for commodity to any man: but the Vsurers shall be otherwise disposed, for hauing monthly taken but a penny in the Shilling, euer since they began first their occupation, shall now with a good conscience venter ypon three pence with the aduantage;
besides,

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besides, many men shall prooue themselves apparantly knauish, and yet in their owne opinions will not be so: and many women shall imagine that there are none fairer then themselves.

Moreouer, for the further increase of foolish humours, wee doe establysh and set downe, that fantasticke deuises shall prooue most excellent, and some shall so long deuise for other men, that they will become barraine themselves: some shall deuise nouelties to their owne shames: and some shales to intrap themselves within.

In like manner we thinke it most necessary, that those that be Fortune tellers, shal shut a Knaue in a circle, and looking about for the Diuell, shall finde him lockt in their owne boosomes: Athistes, by the law, shall be as odious, as they are careles: and those that depend on destiny, & not on God, may chauce looke through a narrow lettice at Foote-mans Ione: But my deere friendes, the Grocers are plentifully blessed, for their Figges and Reasons may allure faire Lasses by authority: yea many men by the statute shall be so kinde hearted, that a kisse and an Apple shall serue to make them Innocentes.

It is further agreed vpon & established, that many strange cuents shall happen in those houses, where the Mayde is predominant with her Maister, and wants a Mistresse to looke narrowly vnto her.

Also we thinke it conuenient, that some shall take
their

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their neighbours bed for their owne: some the seru-
uant for the Maister: and (if Candles could tell tales)
some will take a Familiar for a Flea. Also we thinke it
meete, that there shold be many Fowlers, who in stead
of Larkes shall catch Lobcockes: and many for want
o^f wit, shall sell their Freehold for Tabacco pipes, and
red Petticoates. Likewise we thinke it conuenient
that there should be many takers: for some would be
taken for wise men, who in deed are very fooles: for
some will take crackt Angels of poore debtors, and a
quart of Malmesie when they cannot get a pottle.

But stay a while, whither are we carryed, leaving
the greatest Lawes vnpublished, and establishing the
lesse: therefore wee enact and ordaine as a necessary
Statute, that there shall great contentions fall betweene
Souldiers and Archers: and if the fray be not delisted
at a pot of Ale and a blacke Pudding, great bloodshed
is like to ensue: for some shall maintaine that a Turke
can be hit at twelue score pricks in Fiendsbury fields,
Ergo, the Bow and Shafts wan *Bullen*: other shall say,
that a Pot-gun is a dangerous weapon against a Mud-
wall, and an enemy to the Painters worke: amongst
these controuerfies we will sende forth our Com-
mission to God *Cupid*, being an Archer, who shall de-
cide the doubt, and prooue that Archery is heavenly:
for in meditation thereof, he hath lost his eyes.

Oh gentle fellow Souldiers, then leaue your con-
trouerfies if you loue a woman, for I will prooue it,
that

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that a Mince pie is better then a Musket; and he that dare gaine say me, let him meete mee at the Dagger in Cheape with a case of pewter Spooones, and I will answer it: and if I prooue not that a Mince Pie is the better weapon, let mee dine twice a weeke at Duke *Humphries* table.

It is furthermore established, that the foure knaues at the Cardes, shall sodainely leape fiō out the bunch, and desperately pranke about the new Playhouse, to seeke out their old Maister Captaine Crop-eare: also it is thought meete, that some men (in these dayes) shall be pollericke beyond reason, and write more in one line, then they can prooue in an age: it shall be lawfull for some to stidle which way they may walke to get them a stomacke to their meate, whilst other are as carefull to get meate to put in their bellies: likewise there shall be great persecution in the Common-weale of Kitchin fees, so that some desperate woman shall boyle, try, and seeth poore Tallow to the generall commoditie of all the whole company of Tallow Chandlers.

Alas, alas, how are we troubled to thinke on these dangerous times: for Taylors, by acte of Parliament, may lawfully inuent new fashions: and he that takes Irish Aquauite by the pint, may by the law stumble without offence, and breake his face: and it shall be thought conuenient, that some be so desperate bent, as they shall goe into my Lord Maiors Butters when all

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the Barrells be full, without either sworde or dagger about them: many men shall be so ventrousty giuen, as they shall goe into Petty-coate lane, and yet come out againe as honestly as they went first in.

In like maner it shall be lawfull for Tems water to cleane as much as euer it did in times past; and if the Brewers of London buy store of good Mault, poore Bagemen at Quene-hiue shall haue a whole quart for a penny: Saint Thomas Onions shall be solde by the rope at Billingsgate by the statute: and Semsters in the Exchange shall become so contionable, that a man without offence, may buy a Falling Band for twelue pence.

It shall be lawfull for Smithes to loue good Ale, and if it be possible to haue a frost of three weckes long in Iuly, men shall not be afraide of a good fier at Mid-sonmer: Potters Baskets shall haue authority to hold more then they can honestly carry away: and such a drought shal come amongst Cannes at Bartholomew fyre in Smithfelde, that they shall neuer continue long filled.

The Images in the Temple Church (if they rise againe) shall haue a Commision to digge downe Charing Crosse with their Fauchions: and Millers by custome shall haue small minde to morning Prayer, (if the winde serue them) in any corner on Sundayes: Those that goe to the Warres and get nothing, may come home poore by authoritie: and those that play
last

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fast and loose with womens Aporne-stringes, may
chaunce make a iorney for a Winchester Pidgion:
for preuentioⁿ therof, drinke euery morning a draught
of *Nole me tangeri*, and by that meanes, thou shalt be
sure to escape the Phisitions Purgatorie.

But amongst all other decrees & statutes by vs here
set downe, wee ordaine and commaund, that three
things (if they be not parted) euer to continue in per-
petuall amities; that is, a Louse in an old Dublet, a pain-
ted cloath in a Painters shop, and a Foole & his bable:
Furthermore it shall be lawfull for Bakers to thrine
by two thinges; that is, scores well payde, and Millers
that are honest, Phisitions by other mens harmes, and
Churchyardes by often burials: also we thinke it ne-
cessarie for the Common wealth, that the Sammon
shall be better solde in Fishstreete, then the Beere shall
be at Billingsgate: and Hartes-ease amongst the com-
pany of Hearb-wiues, shall be worth as much money
as they can get for it, by the statute.

It is further enacted and agreed vpon, that those
that run foure score myle a foote on a Winters day,
shall haue a sore thritt about seauen of the clocke in
the euening: and such as are inclining to the Dropsie,
may be lawfully cured, if the Phisitions know how:
Also we ordaine & appoynt, that (if there be no great
store of tempestes) two halie penny leaues shall be
sold for a penny in White-chappell Chaucers books
by acte of Parliament, shall in these dayes proue more
G2. witty

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witty then euer they were for there shall so many so-
daine, or rather sodden wittes step abroad, that a Flea
shall not fiske tooch, vlesse they comment on her.

O what a detestable trouble shall be among women
about foure score and ten yeeres old, for such as haue
more teeth about them, then they can well vse, shall
die for age, if they liue not by miracle. Also it shall be
lawfull for Bees, if the Sommer shew not, to goe on
Pilgrimage, and flie to farre in one pay, as who so sets
vp a land marke where they first light, shall come to
vs and haue a pound waight of gold for his diligence
and labour.

Moreouer, we thinke it necessarie, that those that
haue two eyes in their head shall sometime stumble,
and they that can neither write nor read, may as bold-
ly forswear themselves, as they that can: And it shall
be lawfull for Almanack makers to tell more lyes
then true tales: And they that goe to Sea without
victuals, may suffer penurie by the Statute.

In like maner, it shall be lawfull for any man to car-
rie about him more gold then Iron, if he can get it:
But they that are giuen to a sullen complexion (if they
be Females) must be more circumspect, for if they re-
pent their hid sinnes too much, they may chaunce
catch heauen for their labour: Therfore let Maydens
take heede how they fall on their backs, least they
catch a fourty weekes saueur: and he that hath once
married a Shrew, and by good chaunce burie her, be-
ware

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ware how he come into the stocks againe.

Further, it shall be lawfull for those that be rich, to haue many friendes: And they that be poore, may by authority keepe money, if they can get it honestly.

Also, we commaund and charge all such as haue no conscience, to dee their worst, least they die in the Diuels debt: as for the rest, they that haue more money then they need, may helpe their poore neighbors if they will.

In like maner, it shall be lawfull for such as are subiect to hot Rewmes, to drinke cold drinke: and those that haue a minde to enrich Physitions, to be neuer without diseases.

Also, Souldiers that haue no meanes to thrine by plaine dealing, may by the statute swallow downe an ounce of the sirrop of Suttleie euery morning, and if they can not thrine that wayes, we thinke it necessarie, that foure times in the yeere they goe a fyshing on Salisburie plaine.

Furthermore, for the benefite and increase of foolish humours, we thinke it necessary, that those our deare friendes which are sworne true seruitours to womens pantables, should haue this order set downe, that you suite your selues handsomely against Goose feast, and if you meete not a faire Lasse betwixt *Pauls* and *Stratford* that day, we will bestow a new suite of Satten vpon you, so you will beare all the charges.

But as for you deare friendes and Schollers, thus

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much we fauour you, for you shall dine vpon Witte by authoritie; and if you pay your Hostesse well, it is no matter though you score it vp till it come to a good round summe.

In like maner it shall be lawfull for Maydes milke to be good Phisicke for Kib'd heeles, and a cuppe of Sacke to be ward a present remedy for the Rewme: such as are sicke in the Spring, may take Phisicke by the statute: and those that are cold, may weare more cloathes without offence: It is best to ride in long iornies, lea't a man be weerie with going a foote, and more comely to goe in broken stockings, then bare legged.

Further, it shall be lawfull for some to be leane, because they cannot be fatte: Some by the statute, shall loue Beefe passing well, because they can come by no better meate; and other some sipper it with an Egge at dinner, that dare manfully set vpon a shoulder of Veale in the after noone.

Some shall be sad when they want money, and in loue with Widdowes rather for their wealth, then their honesties: It is also thought necessary, that some shall suspect their wiues at home, because they themselves play false abroad: and some loue Bowling alies better then a Sermon: but about all other things, Sprites with Aprons shall much disturbe your sleepes about midnight.

Furthermore, it shall be lawfull for him that marries

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ries without money, to finde foure bare-legs in his bed: and he that is too prodigall in spending, shall die a begger by the statute.

In like maner, we thinke it necessarie, that he that is plagued with a curst wife, to haue his pate broke quarterly, as he payes his rent: Likewise he that delights in subtiltie, may play the knaue by custome: and he that hath his complexion and courage spent, may eate Mutton on fasting dayes by the law.

And to conclude, since there are ten precepts to be obserued in the Arte of Scowlding, we humbly take our leaue of *Duke Humphries* Ordinarie, and betake vs to the Chappell of *Ill Counsaile*, where a quart or two of fine *Trinidado*, shall arme vs against the gun-shot of tongue mettle, and keepe vs safe from the assaultes of *Sir Iohn*

Find-fault: *Vale*, my deare
friendes till my next
returne.

FINIS.